

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing system comprising:

first input means for receiving ~~via a network~~ first media content information ~~via a network concerning program content~~ from a first seller information processing apparatus ~~possessed by a seller of the program content~~;

first recording means for recording the first media content information ~~received by said first input means~~;

output means for outputting ~~via said network~~ the first media content information ~~recorded by said first recording means~~ to a second buyer information processing apparatus ~~possessed by a buyer of the program content via the network~~;

second input means for receiving ~~via said network~~ second information ~~concerning indicating~~ the purchase of rights of predetermined ~~program~~ media content from ~~said second~~ the buyer information processing apparatus via the network; and

~~assisting~~ settlement means for ~~assisting the seller and the buyer of the program content to settle~~ settling a purchase-and-sale contract concerning the rights of the predetermined ~~program~~ media content based on the received second information ~~received by said second input means~~.

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said assisting~~ the settlement means prepares and stores ~~assists the formation of data corresponding to a document concerning~~ associated with the purchase-and-sale

~~contract for the rights of the predetermined program content between the seller and the buyer of the program content, and stores said data.~~

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

third input means for receiving ~~via said network~~ third information concerning indicating a condition of the ~~program~~ media content desired by the buyer from ~~said second~~ the buyer information processing apparatus via the network; and

search means for retrieving ~~searching for the first~~ media content information ~~recorded by said first recording means which matches the third information~~ satisfying the condition,

wherein ~~said~~ the output means ~~outputs the first information searched by said search means to said second information processing apparatus~~ provides the retrieved media content information to the buyer information processing apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) An information processing system according to claim 1, further comprising:

third input means for receiving ~~via said network~~ third information concerning indicating the seller of the ~~program~~ media content from ~~said first~~ the seller information processing apparatus via the network;

fourth input means for receiving ~~via said network~~ fourth information concerning indicating the buyer of the ~~program~~ media content from ~~said second~~ the buyer information processing apparatus; and

~~second recording means for recording the third information received by said third~~  
~~input means~~ indicating the seller of the media content and the ~~fourth~~ information  
~~received by said fourth input means~~ indicating the buyer of the media content.

5. (Currently Amended) An information processing system according to claim 1,  
wherein the rights of the ~~program~~ media content to be sold and purchased between the  
seller and the buyer of the ~~program~~ media content comprise at least part of:  
broadcasting rights, licensing rights, and copyright, or all the rights concerning the  
~~program~~ media content.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:  
~~a first input step of receiving via a network first~~ media content ~~information via a~~  
~~network concerning program content from a first~~ seller ~~information processing apparatus~~  
~~possessed by a seller of the program content;~~

~~a recording step of recording the first~~ media content ~~information received in said~~  
~~first input step;~~

~~an output step of outputting via said network the first~~ media content ~~information~~  
~~recorded in said recording step to a second~~ buyer ~~information processing apparatus~~  
~~possessed by a buyer of the program content~~ via the network;

~~a second input step of receiving via said network second information concerning~~  
~~indicating the purchase of rights of predetermined~~ program media ~~content from said~~  
~~second~~ the buyer ~~information processing apparatus~~ via the network; and

~~an assisting step of assisting settling the seller and the buyer of the program-~~  
~~content to settle~~ a purchase-and-sale contract concerning the rights of the  
predetermined ~~program~~ media content based on the received second information  
~~received in said second input step.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A transaction ~~assisting~~ method for ~~assisting~~ settling a  
transaction of media content, comprising:

~~a receiving step of receiving media content information concerning identifying the~~  
media content to be sold by a seller, and media content rights information ~~right-~~  
~~information concerning rights of the content; and~~

~~an assisting step of assisting settling the transaction of the media content~~  
generated between the seller and ~~the~~ a buyer by attaching ~~the right~~ rights indicated by  
~~the right information~~ media content rights information to the identified media content  
~~indicated by the content information so as to sell the content and the right to the seller ;~~  
and

selling the identified media content and the attached rights to the seller.

8. (Currently Amended) A transaction ~~assisting~~ method according to claim 7,  
wherein the ~~right~~ media content rights information ~~concerning the right of the content~~  
comprises any one of: broadcasting rights, licensing rights, and copyright of the  
content.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for use in an information processing system which is connected ~~to~~ via a network to at least one first seller information processing apparatus ~~possessed by a seller of program content~~ and to at least one second buyer information processing apparatus ~~possessed by a buyer of the program content~~, said information processing method comprising:

~~an input step of receiving first media content information concerning the program content from said first the seller information processing apparatus;~~

~~a registration step of registering the first media content information received by said first input step;~~

~~a second input step of receiving second media content information, which specifies specifying predetermined program media content selected from the program content registered media content in said registration step and specifies the seller of the program media content from, said second the buyer information processing apparatus;~~

~~a first generation step of generating a first web page which is viewable by said second information processing apparatus outputting the second information the buyer information processing apparatus, and which displays a message input from said first the seller information processing apparatus of the seller designated specified by the second media content information, and which receives a message from the buyer to be sent to the seller;~~

~~a second generation step of generating a second web page which is viewable by said first the seller information processing apparatus specified by the second media content information of the seller designated by the second information, and which displays a message input from said second the buyer information processing apparatus~~

outputting the second media content information, and which receives a message from the seller to be sent to the buyer;

~~a control step of controlling the posting of the first web page generated in said first generation step and the second web page generated in said second generation step on said network; and~~

~~an acquiring step of acquiring the messages input into the first web page or and the second web page.~~

10. (Withdrawn) A transaction assisting method for assisting a transaction of content, comprising:

a first acquiring step of acquiring a request from a seller's site concerning the content possessed by a seller;

a second acquiring step of acquiring a request from a buyer's site concerning the content to be purchased by a buyer;

a transaction generation step of matching the request from the buyer acquired in said second acquiring step with the request from the seller acquired in said first acquiring step, and of generating the transaction of the matched content; and

a provision step of providing the seller and the buyer with a web site used for negotiating about a transaction condition of the matched content.

11. (Withdrawn) A transaction assisting method for assisting a transaction of content, comprising:

a registration step of registering the content possessed by a seller in a server;

a selection step of selecting the content to be purchased by a buyer from the content registered in said server in said registration step; and

a provision step of providing the seller and the buyer with a web site used for negotiating about a transaction condition of the content selected in said selection step.

12. (Withdrawn) A service providing method for providing services concerning a transaction of content, comprising:

a registration step of registering the content to be sold by a seller in a server in response to a request from a seller's site;

a selection step of selecting the content to be purchased by a buyer from the content registered in said server in response to a request from a buyer's site; and

a provision step of providing the seller and the buyer with a web site used for negotiating about a transaction condition of the content selected in said selection step.

13. (Withdrawn) An information processing method for use in an information processing system which is connected to via a network at least one first information processing apparatus possessed by a seller of program content and to at least one second information processing apparatus possessed by a buyer of the program content, said information processing method comprising:

a first generation step of generating a plurality of first web pages which are viewable by said second information processing apparatus, and which displays information concerning purchase and sale of the program content, and which receives first information to be sent to a predetermined seller;

a second generation step of generating a plurality of second web pages which are viewable by said first information processing apparatus, and which displays information concerning the purchase and sale of the program content, and which receives second information to be sent to a predetermined buyer;

a control step of controlling the posting of the plurality of first web pages generated in said first generation step and the plurality of second web pages generated in said second generation step on said network;

a first acquiring step of acquiring the first information input into the plurality of first web pages;

a second acquiring step of acquiring the second information input into the plurality of second web pages;

a third generation step of generating, based on the first information acquired in said first acquiring step, a third web page which is viewable by said first information processing apparatus of the predetermined seller, and which displays the buyer who has input the first information and a list of names of the program content corresponding to the first information; and

a fourth generation step of generating, based on the second information acquired in said second acquiring step, a fourth web page which is viewable by said second information processing apparatus of the predetermined buyer, and which displays the seller who has input the second information and a list of names of the program content corresponding to the second information.



14. (Withdrawn) An information processing method for use in an information processing system which is connected to via a network at least one first information processing apparatus possessed by a seller of program content and to at least one second information processing apparatus possessed by a buyer of the program content, said information processing method comprising:

an input/output control step of controlling an input and an output of information from and to said first information processing apparatus and said second information processing apparatus via said network;

a registration step of registering first information concerning the program content to be sold by the seller based on the information obtained by controlling the input from said first information processing apparatus in said input/output control step;

an inquiry provision step of providing an inquiry about the program content obtained by controlling the input from said second information processing apparatus in said input/output control step to said first information processing apparatus of the corresponding seller;

a negotiation assisting step of assisting negotiations for a purchase-and-sale contract of the program content based on the information obtained by controlling the input from said first information processing apparatus and said second information processing apparatus in said input/output controls step, and based on the first information registered in said registration step;

a quotation formation assisting step of assisting the formation of a quotation of the program content based on the information obtained by controlling the input from

said first information processing apparatus in said input/output control step, and based on the first information registered in said registration step; and

a purchase-order formation assisting step of assisting the formation of a purchase order of the program content based on the information obtained by controlling the input from said second information processing apparatus in said input/output control step, and based on the quotation formed by the assistance in said quotation formation assisting step.

15. (Withdrawn) An information processing method according to claim 14, further comprising:

a first recording control step of controlling the recording of the inquiry about the program content provided in said inquiry provision step;

a second recording control step of controlling the recording of information about the negotiations for the purchase-and-sale contract conducted by the assistance in said negotiation assisting step;

a third recording control step of controlling the recording of the quotation formed by the assistance in said quotation formation assisting step; and

a fourth recording control step of controlling the recording of the purchase order formed by the assistance in said purchase-order formation assisting step.